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(2) whether it is a fact that owing to the discontinuance or neglect of *nanal* planting, the carrying capacity of the rivers in the Cauvery delta has seriously diminished ?

A.—(1) The Government are aware of the existence of the dam referred to, and the difficulties arising therefrom. The French Government have proposed to improve the dam by converting it into a regulator but there is no guarantee as to when it will be done. The Collector has however been directed to safeguard the interests of the British ryots adequately by regulating the Kavadi channel head sluices as occasion arises.

(2) As much funds as can be spared under present conditions are being allotted for conservancy operations. The Government have no reason to believe that the alleged discontinuance or neglect of conservancy operations has reduced the carrying capacity of the delta rivers.

Surplus water overflowing the Pennar Anicut.

268 *Q.*—Mr. K. Sitarama Reddiyar: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the amount of surplus water overflowing the Pennar anicut near Tirukkoyilur unutilized for irrigation purposes for the last twenty years ?

A.—The Government have not the information asked for.

Mr. K. Sitarama Reddiyar :—"Will the Government be pleased to call for the information ?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"In deference to the wish of my hon. Friend, I have asked our Chief Engineer and he says that gaugings have not been kept, but the information will be collected."

Law Officers.

Age of Government pleaders and public prosecutors.

269 *Q.*—The Raja of Ramnad: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to furnish the age of the various Government pleaders and public prosecutors employed in all the districts on 1st January 1924?

A.—The Government have no information.

The Raja of Ramnad :—"May I request the hon. the Law Member to kindly furnish the information in view of the number of Resolutions that have been tabled ?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"An inquisition regarding the ages of the various Government pleaders and public prosecutors in all the districts may not be of great assistance, but if, in regard to any particular district where there is any trouble, this age question is raised, I have no objection to call for information."

Magistracy.

Special Magistrates in the Madura and Tanjore districts.

270 *Q.*—Mr. A. V. Bhanoji Rao: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether the experiment of appointing Special Magistrates in